

made in Russia, Austria-Hungary, Japan, and other countries. In this new edition of *Modern Banks of Issue*^ not only have such events been brought down to date, but more attention has been given than in the first edition to several phases of banking development, notably on the side of discount policy and on that of the division of profits between the bank and the state. In practically every European state, even where there has been no radical change in monetary and banking policy, the opportunity which has arisen to revise the charters of the banks has been availed of, in the case of the great central banks, to narrow the privileges and profits which were originally granted to the shareholders. The facts in this regard are presented in this edition with much greater approach to completeness than in the earlier editions of this work.

The past twelve years have contributed much to strictly monetary as well as to banking history. Questions whose solution was doubtful and disputed have been settled to the satisfaction of intelligent men. The gold standard, which was described twelve years ago as "a conspiracy against the human race/" has been adopted in succession within that time by the United States, Russia, Austria-Hungary, Japan, and Mexico. Practically the only country remaining upon the silver standard is China, which is without a national monetary system, and even as these pages go to press despatches from China indicate that the government is planning such a national system to be based ultimately upon gold.

This history of banking is not intended as a treatise on coinage, except so far as changes in coinage laws have been accomplished through banking agencies and have affected banking history. The great banks of the world have inevitably, however, been powerful factors in the monetary changes which have been accomplished in recent years. Especially has this been the case where the new monetary systems have depended in some degree, as in the case of British India, the Philippines, Mexico, Russia, and Austria-Hungary, upon the control of the market for exchange. In